

CLAIMS

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1. A multi-layered moulding material comprising a layer of resin material and conjoined to at least one surface thereof a fibrous layer.

2. A multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 1 wherein a first fibrous layer is conjoined to the upper surface of the resin layer and a second fibrous layer is conjoined to the lower surface of the resin layer.

3. A multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 2 wherein the first and second fibrous layers are formed from the same material.

4. A multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 2 wherein the first and second fibrous layers are formed from different materials.

5. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the or each fibrous layer is held in place by the inherent tack of the surface of the resin layer.

6. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the or each fibrous layer is partially impregnated by resin.

7. A multi-layer moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein a tackifier and/or a binder is applied to one or both outer surfaces of the at least one fibrous layer

8. A multi-layer moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the fibrous layer is continuous.

9. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the fibrous layer is discontinuous.

10. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the resin system is a thermosetting polymer

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11. A multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 10 wherein the thermosetting polymer is selected from epoxy, polyester, vinyl ester, polyimide, cyanate ester, phenolic and bismaleimide systems, modifications thereof and blends thereof.

12. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 wherein the or each fibrous layer is formed from glass fibres, carbon fibres, polyethylene fibres, aramid fibres, natural fibres or modified natural fibres.

13. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 12 wherein the fibres in the fibrous layer or layers are unidirectional.

14. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 wherein one or more layers of the material is a prepeg.

15. A multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 14 wherein the material is a prepeg.

16. A multi-layered moulding material for use in the production of a surface layer comprising a multi-layered moulding material according to any one of Claims 1 to 15.

17. A multi-layered moulding material for use in the production of a surface layer according to Claim 16 in which a woven fibrous layer is conjoined to one surface and a nonwoven fibrous layer is conjoined to the opposing surface.

18. A method of forming a multi-layered material of any one of Claims 1 to 17 by placing the or each fibrous layer in contact with the resin layer.

19. A method according to Claim 18, additionally comprising the step of partly compacting the fibrous layer into the resin layer.

20. An article of manufacture produced from the moulding material of any one of Claims 1 to 17 or made in accordance with any one of Claims 18 to 19.

21. A method of forming the article of manufacture of Claim 20 in which the moulding material is placed in contact with the mould and allowed to cure.

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